



**2017 South Bend Common Council  
and Support Staff**

**Tim Scott, Council President**

**Oliver J. Davis, Vice-President**

**Gavin Ferlic, Committee of Whole Chair**

**Regina Williams-Preston, 2nd District**

**Randy Kelly, 3rd District**

**Jo Broden, 4th District**

**Dr. David Varner, 5th District**

**Karen L. White, At Large**

**John Voorde, At Large**

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**Kareemah Fowler, City Clerk**

**Bob Palmer, Council Attorney**



The City of South Bend received the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2014. This was the 25th consecutive year that the City received this GFOA honor.



**The Process**

Prior to a proposed fiscal ordinance being acted upon by the Common Council it is reviewed by the Personnel and Finance Committee. The public has the opportunity to attend such meetings. Unless noted otherwise by the Chairperson, members of the public may speak after giving their name and address. The Committee makes advisory recommendations to the Council on each Bill referred to the Committee for review and recommendation.

The Indiana Open Door Law governs all of the meetings of the Personnel and Finance Committee, which requires 48-hour notice of each meeting and meeting minutes

*“We believe that fiscal transparency and accountability are the key objectives and goals for overseeing all of the taxpayers’ dollars” of the residents of South Bend.*

*Karen L. White, Personnel & Finance Chairperson*

**Personnel  
and  
Finance Committee**



**2017 South Bend  
Common Council**

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**Karen L. White**

Chairperson



**Gavin Ferlic**

Vice-Chair

## Who We Are

Four (4) Council Members are on the Personnel and Finance Committee:

**Regina Williams-Preston**

**John Voorde**

Member

Member



## What We Do

The Personnel and Finance Committee is one of eleven standing committees of the Common Council. It reviews and holds public hearings on all matters filed by the City Administration which include but are not limited to:

- Annual City Budgets and Tax Rates
- City Employee Salary Ordinances
- Proposed appropriations and transfers
- Fees and charges for services

## Important Facts & Data

The City of South Bend 2016 Budget addressed:

- \$306,602,739 Total of All City Funds
- \$248,072,016 City Fund Revenues
- \$268,856,330 City Fund Expenditures
- 1,101 full-time city employees

The Personnel & Finance Committee held 14 public hearings including several in the community before it passed the 2016 budget on October 12, 2015, well before the state deadline of November 1st.

**City's "Standard & Poors" Bond Rating: AA.**

Gross Assessed Property Tax Value as of 3/1/2015:  
\$4,837,489,612

- **County Option Income Tax (COIT) Fund** is used to pay debt service, capital expenditures, information & technology & other uses.
- **Economic Development Income Tax (EDIT) Fund** is used to pay debt service, economic development, capital expenditures benefiting economic development, street department operations, grants/subsidies for code enforcement and animal control & general infrastructure maintenance.
- **Public Safety Local Option Income Tax (LOIT)** helps fund the salaries & benefits of several sworn police officers & sworn firefighters annually.
- **Redevelopment Commission Controlled Funds** [*NOT governed by the Common Council*]  
Total \$37,746,409 or 12.3% of the total City Budget.



For more City Budget Information Go to the Department of Administration and Finance website [www.ci.south-bend.in.us](http://www.ci.south-bend.in.us)

## Planning for the Future

The Indiana General Assembly enacted state laws which established property tax caps which took effect January 1, 2009. Some "common themes or overall trends" identified in *The Fiscal Health of Indiana's Larger Municipalities* published in December 2015 by the Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute showed that:

- "...the caps have affected older, industrial cities more than suburban....communities...Elkhart and South Bend which were both hit hard by the Great Recession experienced the greatest loss in net assessed value..."
- "South Bend had [one] of the largest property tax losses due to the Circuit Breaker in 2015 at \$31,636,602...South Bend lost \$1,418 per \$100,000 of net assessed valuation" in 2015
- South Bend has "strong balances" in their General Fund and their Rainy Day Fund

### Indiana Department of Local Government Finance Circuit Breaker Caps Facts:

Beginning with the 2010 tax bills, property owners were given a circuit breaker cap on the amount of property taxes over:

- 1% of homestead properties
- 2% of residential properties
- 2% of agricultural land
- 2% long-term care facilities
- 3% of nonresidential properties
- 3% of personal property

"In St. Joseph and Lake Counties, a special accommodation was provided "due to those counties heavy reliance on property taxes to fund local services and will expire in 2020 at which time any remaining debt will be subject to the caps".